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ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTES

BY ALBERT S. GATSCHE.



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FATHER A. G. MORICE, of the Order of Mary Immaculate, is the author of a *Carrier Reading Book*, published at Stuarts' Lake Mission, British Columbia. The second edition has appeared in 1894, in the syllabic characters invented by Morice in the latter part of 1885, and holds 192 duodecimo pages. The contents are chiefly devotional. The introduction of the Cree or Knistino syllabic characters had proved a failure in transcribing Carrier on account of the great difference of sounds in both languages, the Carrier or Taculli being of the Tinné family of languages. But the syllabary of Morice, being richer in signs, proved to be adequate to all the needs of missionaries or translators in rendering the language phonetically as faithfully as possible. Individuals of any of the Déné tribes will learn with great facility to read Déné or Tinné texts when printed or even written with this syllabary, but Selish and Chinook dialects will not be transcribed with ease by means of Morice's system.

THE SACRED POLE of the Omaha Indians was placed for safe keeping in the Museum at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., in 1888, and the contents of the two sacred tents of war of that famous tribe were transmitted there four years earlier. These objects are now saved from destruction (it was once intended to bury them with the chiefs charged with their keeping), and form a group of highly interesting relics. Miss Alice C. Fletcher, to whose zeal the preservation of the pole and the other articles is mainly due, gives their legend in an article read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1895, pp. 270-280. A large amount of Omaha mythology is clustering around these relics, and requires attentive reading for its full comprehension. In Omaha and Ponka the sacred pole is called *wa-ghdhe-ghe*, which means, expressed in a circumscriptive manner, "what has the power to place the mark of honor upon the daughter of a chief." The same volume also contains an article of the same author—*Indian Songs and Music*. In this field of research Miss Fletcher has advanced our knowledge more than anybody else, as is fully attested by her monograph, "A Study of Omaha Indian Music" (Peabody Mus. Publications), which was well received by the critical press of America as well as of Europe.

A STUDY OF LONG ISLAND local history is William Wallace Tooker's monograph, published by Francis P. Harper, New York, 1896, octavo (pp. 8 and 60): *John Eliot's* first Indian teacher and interpreter, "Cockenoe-de-Long-Island, and the story of his career from the early records." The frontispiece gives an engraving of Indian graves on Montauk promontory. Cockenoe was a young Indian who went east and helped Rev. John Eliot in the earliest of his endeavors to write down the Massachusetts Indian dialect. In 1646 Mr. Eliot first preached in Indian, and shortly after Cockenoe appears as his interpreter. Indeed one of the significations of this verb *kukkinneau* is that of "he interprets." The last documentary mention of him is dated August 3, 1687, in the Montauk deed of conveyance to the inhabitants of East Hampton, L. I.

THE CREEK WAR of 1813 and 1814 has been a frequent object of historical description. Meek, Pickett, Drake, Claiborne, Woodward and many others have, with industry and perseverance, tried to obtain all information on this fearful struggle which it was possible for them to obtain. They represented the events with all the art and skill they were capable of. When Woodward published his "Reminiscences" (1859), there were still alive a number of people, Indians and whites, who had taken part in the war, and even the latest book on the subject, "The Creek War of 1813 and 1814," by H. S. Halbert and T. H. Ball, avails itself of unpublished materials, most of which have come down to our times in the form of manuscripts (Chicago: Donohue and Henneberry, 1895, pp. 331, 12 mo.). The historic narrative of these authors is attractive, more circumstantial than that of their predecessors, and full of new statements never before published. Particular attention is paid to the causes and origin of the war, which was instigated through the British, especially by the agency of the celebrated Tecumseh, chief of the Shawnees, who was full of hatred against the American settlers in the border states.

DR. NICHOLAS LEÓN is one of the few Mexican scientists who constantly remain active in the dissemination of knowledge of the Indian antiquities, folk lore, customs, and native languages of that interesting, but too little explored country. He has republished several manuals, catechisms and dictionaries of the Tarasca, Zapotec and other native languages, also the "Museo Michoacano," or periodical for the study mainly of the Tarascan people and tongue. Just now the first installment has reached this office of his "Diccionario popular y manual de historia antigua de Mexico," in sedecimo size, and in two columns of Spanish text. This specimen copy contains the biography of the Mexican "Emperor" Ahuitzotl, the eighth ruler of Tenochtitlan, whose rule began in the year 1846. Illustrated articles are to follow on ethnography, anthropology, languages and on other cognate subjects. Dr. León's residence is in Guadalupe-Hidalgo, Federal District of Mexico, *Mexico*, and to that locality orders for his publications may be addressed.

DR. PHILIPP J. J. VALENTINI has recently published Part II of his "Analysis of the Pictorial Text Inscribed on two Palenque Tablets" in the

Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, 1896). In the first part the author had endeavored to prove that in these two Palenque tablets no images comparable to alphabetic characters were found forming the components of the engraved text, for the 201 images on them turned out to be true *pictographs* of natural or manufactured objects. They are of a ritual character. Now Part II attempts to ascertain what special message these two tablets were intended to deliver to posterity. Quite a number of calendar dates are registered on one tablet, and Dr. Valentini finds that they amount to forty-seven, and occupy nearly one-half of all the squares into which the tablet is divided. Tablet I is subdivided by spaces showing the records of several persons, but the long and uninterrupted record of Tablet II has to be assigned to but one person, and is the record of the priest entombed in the locality. The two tablets are reproduced pictorially in the first part of Valentini's article, and a comprehensive account of all the three tablets was in 1879 composed by Charles Rau, then the archæologist of the Smithsonian Institution.

HENRY PITTIER, a native of Switzerland (southwestern part), who is the director and one of the most active teachers in the Instituto físico-geográfico at San José, Costa Rica, has published many useful researches on his adoptive country (travels, topography, Indian linguistics, history, etc.), all of which were printed at San José at public expense. His travels and documentary studies furnished many interesting data for the work he is issuing just now, "Geographic Names of Costa Rica." The first volume deals with the Talamanca district only, holds 46 octavo pages, and explains, or attempts to explain, about 300 local names of that distant country. Most of them belong to the Indian languages spoken at the present time in that province, and it has been ascertained that all Indian dialects of Costa Rica belong to *one* family only.

THE KARIRI LANGUAGE belongs to the mountains of Northern Brazil, and in former times when the Portuguese settled in these parts, the Cairiris or Kiriris with the two sub-tribes of the Sabujás and Pimenteiras were living in the mountainous ridges between the River San Francisco and the Rivers Curú and Acaracú on the north. The nation possesses no common name, and the explorer Philip Martius, who in 1818 heard that about 600 individuals were still in existence, believes that the stock of the nation once came from the unexplored interior of the Guyana highlands. From Mami-ani, a missionary of the seventeenth century, we possess a grammar and a catechism (Lisbon 1698, 12 mo.). Another catechism, by R. P. Bernardo de Nantes, was published first in Lisbon in 1709. He was a Capuchin monk and his works are now exceedingly rare, as appears from the preface of Dr. Julius Platzmann's fac-simile edition, which this indefatigable linguist has just made public in the original duodecimo size: "Catecismo da lingua Kariris, composto pelo R. P. Fray Bernardo de Nantes; publicado de novo por Julio Platzmann. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1896. pp. 363." This reimpression may be called a model of modern typography; from it the language of the Kariri, which was also that of the Sabujá, appears to have had vocalic endings in its words, many difficult consonantic articulations

and a structure, which was not polysynthetic to excess. The Portuguese translation stands opposite the Kariri text on every page, which makes the analysis of the sentences possible without a dictionary. This group of mountain dialects form a linguistic family by itself, and the attempts to connect it with the Tupi family have not been successful.

THE PUBLICATIONS OF DR. RODOLFO LENZ, professor of the Pedagogic Institute of Chile, have, since our last notice of them, considerably increased in number. They all refer to languages spoken by the Chilean Indians, especially with dialects of the Arauco family. Thus we have: "Introduccion a los estudios araucanos (grammatic elements of the Araucan language, and a letter of Padre Febres, pp. 51). Glosario de la lengua Atacameña—the beginning of the dictionary of a language spoken near and in the desert of Atacama, to the north of Chile. The Atacameño was long supposed to be a language not affiliated to any other, but apparently there is a genealogical connection with one of the northern stocks of South American languages. Dialogos araucanos en dialecto huilliche; 371 sentences with interlinear translation by R. Lenz, pp. 35. Der Ausbruch des Vulcans Calbuco; a short relation of that event, in an Araucanian dialect, with interlinear translation in German, and some remarks in form of a commentary. Dialogos araucanos en dialecto picunche, with Spanish interlinear translation, and commentary, pp. 60."

All these articles were printed in Santiago de Chile, 1895 to 1896, in uniform large octavo size; some in the *Añales de la Universidad de Chile*, others in the *Transactions of the German Scientific Society in Santiago*.

NEW GUSLAR SONGS.—The latest of the Guslar or Slavic troubadour songs published in the Slavonic dialect of the middle Danube River is of Moslimic, not of Christian origin, its title being, "*Bojagic Alile's Glück und Grab*." The learned editor, Dr. Friedrich S. Krauss, of Vienna, has published it in Schmeltz's *Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie*, Vol. IX, pp. 1-41 (Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1896), adding a German translation in the metre of the original and a commentary. Everybody who reads these two texts will assume that they were the product of one poet, but the editor positively states that they come from two different authors. The manner in which they are joined together proved conclusively that by a proceeding of this sort whole epic poems of any length can be formed, as we see it in the Homeric poems and in the Kalevala. The Moslem nobleman Bojagic has heard of the consummate beauty of the daughter of the commander of Karlstadt [Transsylvania], and is slain in the attempt to abduct her. The title of the first Guslar song is "Halilen's Brautfahrt," relating the criminal abduction of the girl and the massacre of her Moslemic lover, while the second song, "Halilens' Grab," describes the nightly desecration of the nobleman's grave in that melancholic and touching strain for which the poetry of all Slavic nations are so well known.

Three other Guslar songs worded in the same dialect, edited and translated into German by Dr. F. Krauss at the same time as the Bojagic song previously mentioned, have reference to the wars and expeditions made by Bavarian armies into the southern Slavonic countries east of Bavaria. The

first song celebrates the Turkish attacks upon Vienna, the capital, and was brought to paper by Krauss in December 1884; the second, on the death of the Bavarian King, noted at Lubovija in February 1885. The third is a ceremonial chant upon the wedding of the commander (ban) of Munich; Krauss wrote it down in January 1885 from the dictation of a Catholic named Hija Hercegovac. Published in Reinhard-Stöttner's "Bavarian Researches," vol. IV; 1896.

THE GLOBUS, a German illustrated weekly periodical, published at Braunschweig by the veteran geographer, Dr. Richard Andree, and devoted to ethnography, geology, prehistorics and travels, as well as to archaeology and natural sciences, has begun its 69th volume on January 1st, 1896 (one volume semi-annually). The periodical was founded 1862 by Karl Andree, and in 1894 was united with "Ausland," the tendency of which was closely allied to that of the "Globus." In this age of advanced progress in all human endeavors, "Globus" is certainly one of the foremost magazines, and if some of its articles should appear too erudite to some of its critical readers, there are others which appeal to the popular mind, and can be understood by any one whose education has not been totally neglected. In geography, African exploration, in which everybody's attention is now engaged, has been treated in a large number of articles and graphically represented by photographs, many of Dr. Andree's correspondents being *explorers* themselves. In Vol. 67 (January to June, 1895,) *North and South America* were spoken of in numerous articles by authors like Dr. Sapper, Steffens, Greim, Kobelt, Emil Schmidt, W. J. Hoffman, von Ihering, Hauthal, K. von den Steinen, Polakowski. These well-known authors have written on — Researches on Mount Elias, Statistics of the Colored Race in the United States, Inquiries on Indian Anthropology, Superstitions in the Southern States, the Free Communities of Indians within the Peninsula of Yucatan (with map), the Tonanamatl, Crossing of Puerto Rico, the Climate of Ceará in Brazil, the Stone Age in Paraguay, the Araucanians in their present condition, Emigration from Java to Venezuela, etc.

"CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANTHROPOLOGY FROM AN ETHNIC STANDPOINT" is the title of a recent publication of Prof. Dr. Adolf Bastian, Director of the Ethnologic Department of the Berlin Royal Museums, published in two sections and illustrated. (Berlin: Reimer, publisher, 1895; octavo, pp. 170 and 149, with prefaces). The work is written in German, the title being: "Zur Lehre vom Menschen in ethnischer Anthropologie." The author gives a sketch of the various oriental notions on the conception of the deity, of demons, of tutelary genii, resurrection of body and soul, the various opinions about the abode of the soul after decease, the difference established between the soul of the living and the dead; also, definitions of the plant-soul or life-principle in vegetals. The author is fond of using the parenthesis in the finishing of his sentences, but this habit creates a peculiar difficulty for the comprehension of his ideas. Numerous examples are brought together from all parts of the known world, more especially from

Oceanica and the east coast of Asia and Mexico, many being brought in in the aboriginal languages and confronted with the dictums of the wise men of Rome, Greece and the Orient.

THE SEARCHER, an American "Notes and Queries," is the octavo periodical which is now published to replace the old "American Notes and Queries." Its publisher and editor has remained the same: A. Estoclet, 619 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. It is issued semi-monthly and the yearly subscription is \$2.00. The contents are as multifarious and interesting as ever, and if any one has any literary, historical or linguistic points to elucidate, on which he wants more information, this sheet is the best means to make one's wants known. The latest number of the New Series just published is No. 14 of Vol. I, which corresponds to Vol. X, No. 14 of the Old Series.